

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fontenelle Nature Association – Request for Assistance

Date: April 20, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

The District has received a request (see attached) for financial assistance from the Fontenelle Nature Association (FNA) to assist them in the purchase of approximately 9.5 acres of land adjacent to FNA's property. The parcel is a portion of the former Fontenelle Hills Golf Course (see attached map).

The parcel of land is located in the "Mill Hollow" drainage basin. This basin is one of three basins currently being studied by the Corps of Engineers to identify solutions to erosion and sedimentation at FNA. The other two basins are called "Chiles Hollow" and Coffin Springs Hollow." The District contributed \$10,000 to the \$160,000 study, along with the City of Bellevue and FNA.

The parcel of land is to be used to install a water quality basin to help solve the erosion and sedimentation problem.

FNA has set a fund-raising goal of \$150,000 to purchase the property. They have requested a \$50,000 pledge from the District. FNA has asked for a letter indicating the District's support that can be used to induce other donations. The funds would only be used if a purchase agreement between the seller and FNA is executed. It is anticipated that the funds would be included in the FY 2011 Budget.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the District approve the request from the Fontenelle Nature Association for \$50,000 for the purchase of land in the Mill Hollow Drainage Basin.**

Fontenelle

Nature Association

APR 19 2010

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center
1111 North Bellevue Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005-4000
(402) 731-3140 fax (402) 731-2403

Neale Woods Nature Center
14323 Edith Marie Ave., Omaha, NE 68112
(402) 453-5615 fax (402) 453-0724

April 15, 2010

Mr. John Winkler
General Manager
Papio-Missouri River
Natural Resources District
8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

*Gerry,
Thanks for including
us on the agenda.*

Dear John,

Fontenelle Nature Association (FNA), a Nebraska 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is requesting a grant of \$50,000 to assist in the purchase of approximately 9.5 acres of land from the owners of the Fontenelle Hills Golf Course. As you know, this land is needed, based on the interim findings of the \$160,000 Corps of Engineer watershed study, to construct a water retention system as part of our long-term erosion mitigation efforts.

Over the past several decades Fontenelle Forest has experienced a great deal of erosion and siltation damage as a result of subdivision construction in the upper reaches of three watersheds that drain through the Forest. To date, FNA has spent roughly \$250,000 to mitigate damage and prevent further head cutting in two severely eroded areas within the Forest.

To combat this issue, in 2007 FNA organized the "Bellevue Watershed Task Force" which is a partnership between FNA, City of Bellevue, Papio-Missouri NRD, Sarpy County Roads Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The task force purpose is to study the watersheds from top to bottom, find ways to repair on going damage and take steps to ensure that further damage does not occur.

The Corps of Engineers proposed, and is now in the completion stages, of a Section 22 cost share study of the three watersheds. The study will provide a topographical survey of each watershed, an analysis of each basin's historic, present and future hydrology, and conceptual ideas to repair and/or prevent future damage in each basin. Local sponsorship for the \$160,000 study is funded by \$50,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and \$10,000 each from the FNA, City of Bellevue and the NRD.



The upper two thirds of the largest watershed, known as Mill Hollow, is occupied by the Fontenelle Hills golf course and Fontenelle Hills subdivision. The golf course owners have submitted a proposal for a new subdivision that will occupy the west half of the 18 hole course. The subdivision faces many obstacles, including the runoff and erosion issue and may or may not be approved.

Recently the golf course owners offered to sell to the FNA a 9.5 acre tract which, as you see on the enclosed map, is adjacent to current FNA property. Runoff from the upper reaches of the basin concentrates here and the Corps of Engineers have confirmed that this tract is the logical place to build a retention basin. Ownership of this tract will allow FNA to protect Fontenelle Forest from further damage by controlling runoff near its source.

To date, FNA has already secured a \$50,000 pledge from The Lozier Foundation (please see attached letter) and has held additional conversations with potential supports in our efforts to raise a total of \$150,000 for the purchase of the property. FNA's legal council has drafted a purchase agreement which is currently under review by the sellers. Understanding that purchase agreement processes can be somewhat 'fluid' FNA will proceed under the following assumptions, should this grant request be approved:

- FNA will gain financial support from other donors in addition to The Lozier Foundation & the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
- The NRD's commitment is not binding until the land acquisition purchase agreement is approved by FNA Board of Directors and has been accepted by the selling party
- NRD would provide a letter of intent/support noting the approval of the requested amount as an inducement to other potential contributors

In closing, please know that FNA is most grateful for NRD's consideration of support in helping to protect lands designated by the United States Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark. We hope you will not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Arndorfer
Executive Director



Gary Garabrandt
Director of Science & Stewardship

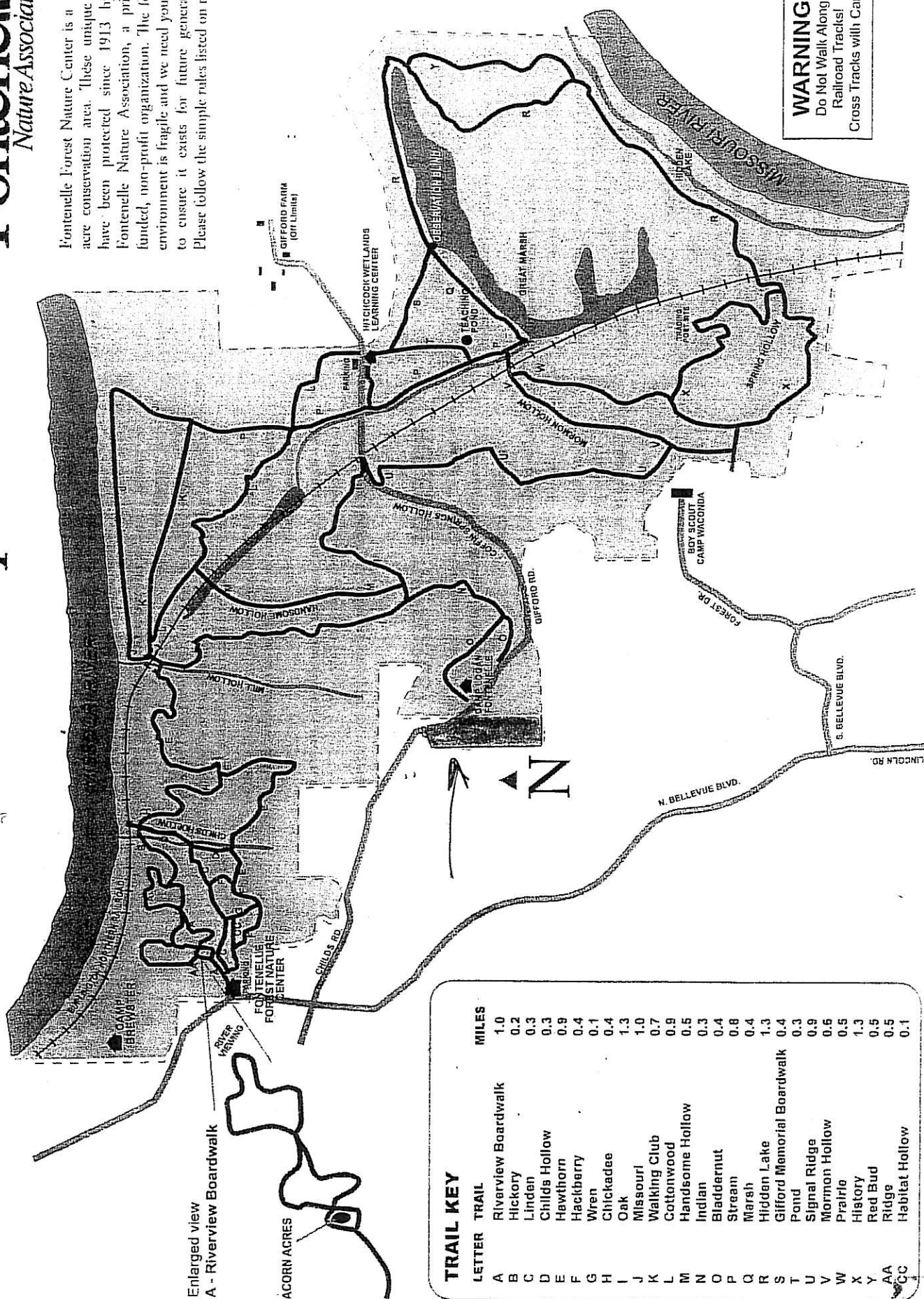
Attachments

cc. Gerry Bowen

Trail Map

Fontenelle Nature Association

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center is a 1,400 acre conservation area. These unique lands have been protected since 1913 by the Fontenelle Nature Association, a privately funded, non-profit organization. The forest's environment is fragile and we need your help to ensure it exists for future generations. Please follow the simple rules listed on reverse.



TRAIL KEY

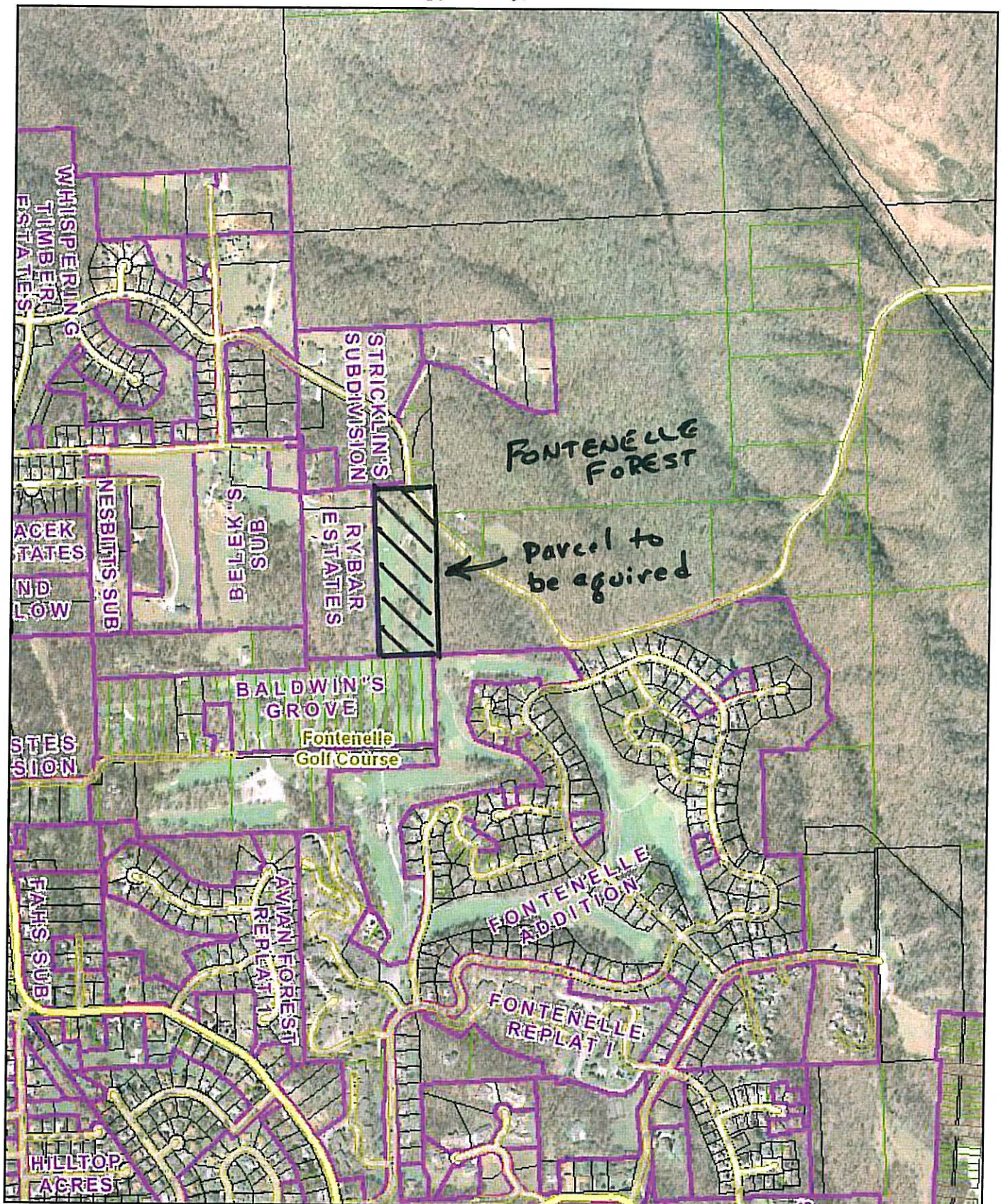
LETTER	TRAIL	MILES
A	Riverview Boardwalk	1.0
B	Hickory	0.2
C	Linden	0.3
D	Childs Hollow	0.3
E	Hawthorn	0.9
F	Hackberry	0.4
G	Wren	0.1
H	Chickadee	0.4
I	Oak	1.3
J	Missouri	1.0
K	Walking Club	0.7
L	Cottonwood	0.9
M	Handsome Hollow	0.5
N	Indian	0.3
O	Bladdernut	0.4
P	Stream	0.8
Q	Marsh	0.4
R	Hidden Lake	1.3
S	Gifford Memorial Boardwalk	0.4
T	Pond	0.3
U	Signal Ridge	0.9
V	Mormon Hollow	0.6
W	Prairie	0.5
X	History	1.3
Y	Red Bud	0.5
AA	Ridge	0.5
CC	Habitat Hollow	0.1

Enlarged view

A - Riverview Boardwalk

ACORN ACRES

Sarpy County, Nebraska



Disclaimer: This data is for informational purposes only, and should not be substituted for a true titles search, property appraisal, survey, or for zoning district verification. Sarpy County and the Sarpy County GIS Coalition assume no legal responsibility for the information contained in this data.

Map Scale
1 inch = 804 feet

5/4/2010



6336 Pershing Drive • Omaha, NE 68110
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3448
Omaha, NE 68103-0448
Toll Free (800) 228-9882 (Except NE 402-457-8000)

February 15, 2010

Tom Arndorfer
Executive Director
Fontenelle Nature Association
1111 North Bellevue Blvd.
Bellevue, NE 68005-4000

Dear Tom:

The Lozier Foundation is pleased to advise you that our trustees have approved up to a \$50,000.00 matching grant to Fontenelle Nature Association for your Capital Campaign project. This project will acquire land from the existing Fontenelle Hills Golf Course and to build an erosion control project that will help to protect the Forest.

This grant requires that you raise \$2.00 for every dollar you receive from The Lozier Foundation. The maximum amount that you can receive from us is \$50,000. I am noting the maximum match because there appears the possibility that this project might actually cost more than \$150,000.

Please keep us current in your negotiations. We want to wish you all the best in putting the project together.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 457-8160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Braun".

Robert Braun, Jr.
For The Lozier Foundation